



Economic Overview And Outlook: Massachusetts

JOBS

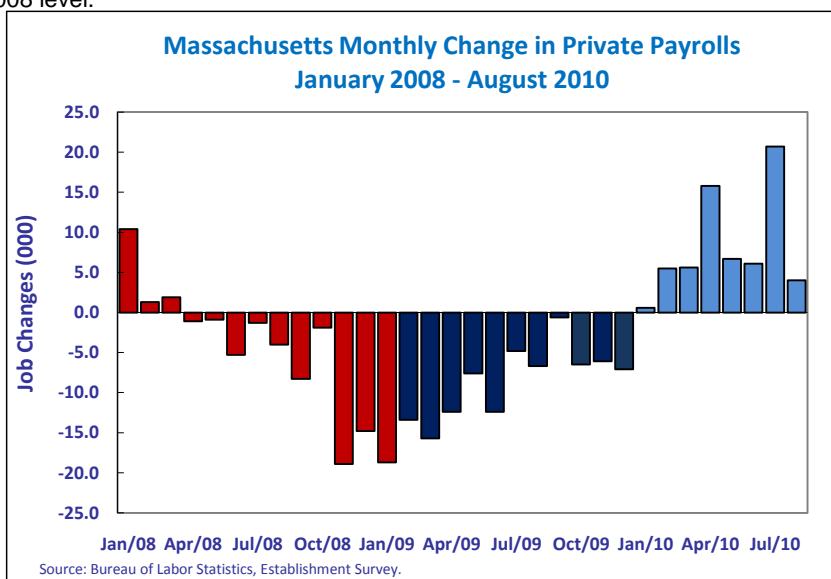
- Across the country, the private sector gained jobs in each month of 2010.
- The President's Council of Economic Advisers estimates that investments made through the Recovery Act have boosted employment in Massachusetts by 79,000 jobs through the 2nd quarter of 2010.
- In Massachusetts, private sector employment fell by 5.4 percent from December 2007 to December 2009. In 2010, private sector employment grew by 2.4 percent.
- In Massachusetts, employees in the construction, manufacturing, and financial activities sectors faced the largest job losses (as a percent of employment within an industry) over the recession. In 2010, the following sectors in Massachusetts experienced the greatest employment increases: leisure and hospitality; construction; and professional and business services.*
- As the economy recovers from the Great Recession, service-providing industries are projected to add the most jobs between 2008 and 2018, with the largest gains in professional and business services, education, health care and social assistance, and state and local government. Within the goods-producing sector of the economy, only the construction industry is projected to add jobs above its 2008 level.

EMPLOYMENT

- The unemployment rate in Massachusetts was 8.8 percent in August 2010, up 4.4 percentage points from December 2007, but down from its most recent peak of 9.5 percent reached in February 2010.
- 304,000 Massachusetts residents were counted among the unemployed in Massachusetts during August 2010.

EARNINGS

- Between the start of the recession in the 4th quarter of 2007 and the 1st quarter of 2009, inflation-adjusted total personal income in the United States declined 1.6 percent. Most recently, in the 2nd quarter of 2010, total personal income remained 0.9 percent below the 4th quarter 2007 peak.
- Real per capita personal income (in 2005 \$) in Massachusetts was \$45,402.30 in the 2nd quarter of 2010, down from \$46,947.70 in the 2nd quarter of 2008.



HOUSING

- National home prices, including distressed sales, were unchanged in July 2010 from July 2009 compared to 2.4 percent in June. In Massachusetts, home prices saw a decrease of 0.2 percent in July 2010 from July 2009 following June's year over year significant increase of 2.4 percent.
- The median price of single-family homes in Massachusetts was \$302,000 in 2008, compared to \$250,000 nationwide.
- As of the 2nd quarter of 2010, 3.2 percent of all mortgages, including 13.6 percent of subprime mortgages, were in foreclosure in Massachusetts.
- Housing starts in Massachusetts totaled 10,600 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in July 2010, an increase of 22.8 percent from June.
- Within the Northeast census region, which includes Massachusetts, sales of new single-family homes totaled 31,000 units in July 2010, a decrease of 13.9 percent from June. Sales of existing single-family homes decreased 28.8 percent to 470,000 units (at seasonally adjusted annual rates) from June to July 2010.

* For Massachusetts-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the Massachusetts office:

<http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=elwdagencylanding&L=4&L0=Home&L1=Government&L2=EOLWD+Data+and+Statistics&L3=Labor+Market+Information&sid=Elwd>

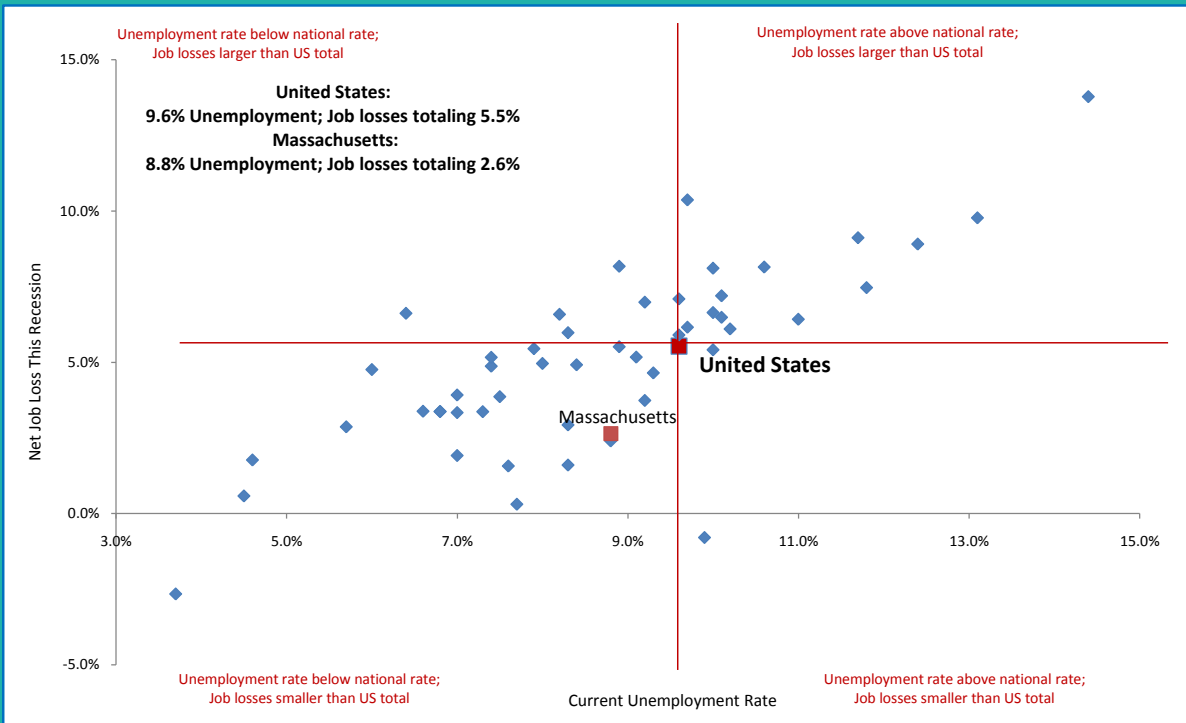
Prepared by the Majority Staff of the Joint Economic Committee

How Does Massachusetts Compare To Other States?

Workers across the country have been hard hit by the Great Recession. This chart allows you to compare Massachusetts to other states using two metrics.

The current unemployment rate (measured along the horizontal axis) serves as a gauge of current labor market conditions faced by residents, while the proportion of jobs lost within Massachusetts over the course of the recession (shown along the vertical axis) measures the toll the recession has taken on the job supply in Massachusetts.

States falling in the upper right quadrant have lost a disproportionate share of jobs, relative to the total United States, and have unemployment rates higher than the national unemployment rate. States falling in the lower left quadrant have unemployment rates lower than the national average and smaller job losses over the recession.



STATE QUICK FACTS

		Massachusetts	United States
Unemployment Rates	August 2008	5.5%	6.1%
	August 2009	8.8%	9.7%
	August 2010	8.8%	9.6%
Percent of Population Who Are Veterans	2008	8.3%	9.8%
Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2009	8.7%	8.1%
Median Household Income	2007	\$ 60,479	\$ 51,965
	(2009 \$) 2009	\$ 59,373	\$ 49,777
Poverty Rate	2007	11.2%	12.5%
	2009	10.8%	14.3%
No Health Insurance	2007	5.4%	15.3%
	2009	4.4%	16.7%